

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

GENERAL STATEMENT

The federal role in fish and wildlife management was first recognized in 1871 with the establishment of the Bureau of Fisheries, which was later incorporated within the Department of Commerce. The first federal fish cultural facility was established on the McCloud River, California in 1872. A second predecessor agency, the Bureau of Biological Survey, was established in the Department of Agriculture in 1885. In 1903, Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge, Pelican Island on Florida's east coast. The Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Biological Survey were transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1939 and consolidated into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1940.

The Service mission is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. A wide range of federal legislation and executive orders provide the Service with principal trust responsibility to protect and conserve migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, certain marine mammals, and inter-jurisdictional fisheries. The Service carries out its mission by managing 535 National Wildlife Refuges, 78 Ecological Services Field Stations, 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 64 Fisheries Resources Offices, nine Fish Health Centers, seven Fish Technology Centers, 37 Wetland Management Districts with waterfowl production areas, and 50 Coordination Areas, encompassing about 94 million acres. The Service works with diverse partners, including other federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, international organizations, and private organizations and individuals.

The Service headquarters is located in Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia, with field units in Denver, Colorado, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and seven regional offices. The Director reports to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and has direct line authority over the headquarters and seven regional offices. Assistant Directors and the Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System provide policy, program management, and administrative support to the Director. The Regional Directors guide policy and program implementation through their field structures and coordinate activities with partners.

At the end of FY 2000, the Service's total employment was 8,848 employees; full-time equivalent usage was 8,360. Nearly 90 percent of the employees work in regional and field organizations providing on-the-ground services that support public trust responsibilities.

The following pages show the Service's organization and provide a comparison between the FY 2000, FY 2001 enacted appropriations and the FY 2002 request.